

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2-3 and 5 are amended, and claims 8-9 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 1, 6, 7, and 10-18 are allowed, and claims 2-5, 8 and 9 contain allowable subject matter.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

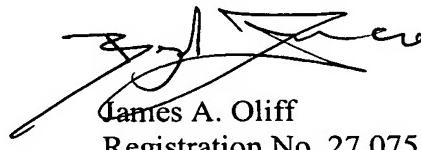
The Office Action reject claims 2-5 and 8-9 under 37 C.F.R. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 2-3 and 5 are amended to provide proper antecedent basis, and claims 8 and 9 are canceled to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §112, second paragraph, rejection.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-7 and 10-18 define patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 and 10-18 are earnest solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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